

ATTACHMENT A

Remarks

Claims 26, 30 and 32-36 are pending in the present application, all of which have been allowed except claim 33. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 33. Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance based on the discussion which follows.

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jordan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,835,146). By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 33 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 26 so that claim 33 now recites a first process of molding a core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, each rib having at least one notch, and a second process of forming an intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounding the ribs.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 33 is proper in this Amendment After Final, as the amendment to claim 33 does not raise new issues for consideration, as the subject matter now recited in claim 33 (currently amended) was previously examined and found to be allowable as recited in the generic method recited in allowable claim 26. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment After Final should be entered.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 33 is not anticipated or obvious in view of Jordan as Jordan fails to teach or suggest a core having ribs with at least one notch as now claimed and as was found to be allowable subject matter in claim 26.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.